

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5885

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR EC

SUBJECT: JOINT US-ECUADOREAN NARCOTICS MEETING, AUGUST 11, 1975

1. SUMMARY: DEPARTURE OF MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATOR PRESENTED OPPORTUNITY FOR A REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE AND PLANNING FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION AT THE MONTHLY GOE-MISSION NARCOTICS MEETING ON AUGUST 11. THE GOE PLACED EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR BETTER EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF OBERVATION TRIPS TO THE US. THE US SIDE STRESSED THE NEED FOR RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MONTHLY NARCOTICS MEETING WAS HELD ON AUGUST 11 AND CHAIRED BY COORDINATOR OF MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT, COL. GUSTAVO VACA. SINCE MEETING WAS LAST TO BE ATTENDED BY DEPARTING MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, IT AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW PROGRESS TO DATE AND TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING FOLLOW: A) THE GOE PARTICIPANTS STRESSED THE NEED FOR A BETTER EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE AMONG GOE ENTITIES AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE
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MISSION TO GOE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. B) IT

ALSO AGREED THAT DURING THE COMING MONTHS A DRAFT PAPER SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE GOE FOR COORDINATION OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. C) THE GOE PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO IMPROVE ITS CUSTOMS SERVICE, SINCE ECUADOR IS PRIMARILY A TRANSIT RATHER THAN A PRODUCING COUNTRY OF NARCOTICS. MISSION OFFICERS MADE THE POINT THAT DRUGS NOT ONLY TRANSIT ECUADOR BUT ALSO ENTER THE COUNTRY AND ARE PROCESSED HERE, THUS PRESUMABLY MAKING POLICE EFFORT EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT AS CUSTOMS. D) ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE USG TO DATE AND STATED THEIR BELIEF THAT OBSERVATION OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN THE US ARE OF PARTICULAR VALUE. THE GOE WAS DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING 3 CANDIDATES FOR INTELLIGENCE TRAINING HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY WASHINGTON AND THEY STATED HOPE THAT AN APPEAL COULD BE MADE TO INVITE AT LEAST TWO OFFICERS. E) THE GOE OFFICIALS CONCURRED IN OUR SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT COULD MAKE A SPEECH DEDICATED ENTIRELY TO THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND ASKED THAT THE MISSION PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION AND DATA THAT MIGHT BE USED IN SUCH A SPEECH AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME. F) THE DEPARTING MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WARNED THAT FUNDS FOR NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT ARE LIMITED AND THAT ECUADOR'S CASE IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE MUCH STRENGTHENED WHEN RESULTS, I.E., SEIZURES, ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS, COULD BE DEMONSTRATED. BREWSTER

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